Numb. 72.

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From **Thursday**, November 5. to **Saturday**, November 7. 1713.

KNavery and unfair Usage seems now to be the agreed Condition of the Game at Parties, which the poor abused People of Britain are playing at this time: The *MERCATOR*, tho' resolved not to come into the Agreement with them, yet shall refrain exclaiming at a Habit, which appears incurable.

They, who Oppose the Treaty of Commerce, not only take all Advantages, for that would not have been Disputed with them, but they fly to all the Legerdemain and Chicane, that it is in their Power to make use of.

Would any Men, whose fair and honest Reasoning could have supported their Cause, have used such a piece of Juggling, such a meer Slight of Hand, fit only for a Mountebank, that came to show Tricks upon a Stage, as the Scheme-Makers of that Party have done, in giving us an Account of what we Exported to France in the Year 1685. in order to prove, what we shall Export thither hereafter! The last *MERCATOR* gave them an Account of the Duties laid on in France in 1667. which were double to what was in the Year 1664; Now, by the Treaty of Commerce, all those Duties are to be taken off back to the Year 1664: How then can the Exports of 1685-6 be a Rule to judge of the Trade by?

If the Ignorant Writer, who they Employ, was not Qualified with the Vertue, which the *Englishman* lately wrote a learned Dissertation upon, he could never show the Year 1685, to prove, what the Trade will be, when it is unravelled back to 1664. When another Treatise of Impudence shall come out by any learned Author, he cannot want Illustrations from such admirable Examples.

The Year 1685-6, as mentioned in the last *MERCATOR*, was a Year, when the English Goods in France paid double to what they paid in the Year 1664. We shall add an Observation, the Inference from which they may avoid, if they find it feasible.

In the Year 1687, a farther Additional Duty was laid in France upon all our English Goods, which also amounted to near 20 per Cent. as the former Addition of 1667 had done.

What the Exportations to France were before the Year 1667, we have no exact Account of Exhibited; but we find, that upon laying the Additional Duty of 1687, the Exportations sunk almost One half: Let them give us a Reason then, why they should not sink a Half also at the laying the double Duties of 1667?

And if they did so, what then must our Exportations be to France before 1664! The Reason being the same for one as for the other, it shall be stated again more particularly from their own Scheme, (viz.) The Exportations from England to France in the Year 1685-6 was, by their own Account, as in the last *MERCATOR*, above 514000 Pounds; if on the Additional Duties in 1687, those Exports sunk One half, which brings them to 257000 l. by the same Rule they were One half more before 1667, when the first doubling of the Duties was made, which then must be 771000 l. a Year.

What Reason then can these Mountebank Merchants give, why the Trade should not now return to that Sum again, when all these Additions and Doublings are taken off? This would become their great Skill in Trade to Answer, to the Satisfaction of an abused Nation. To make this undeniable, let the following Scheme of Quantities, taken from the Custom-house Books, decide it.

An Account of Goods of the Growth or Manufacture of England *Exported to* France *in the Year* 1686, *being the Year immediately before the ſecond Addition of Duties laid on in* France, *and a Compariſon thereof with the Exports of like Goods for the Year* 1687, *immediately after the ſaid new Duties.*

Exported Anno 1686-7.	Expor. An. 1687-8.	Difference.
Long Cloths ——— 523½	224	298½
Short ditto ——— 995	259	736
Spaniſh ditto ——— 5077	781	4296
Kerſies ——— 4690	1728	2962
Double Dozens ——— 148	97	51
Single Dozens ——— 1204	548	756
Cloth Raſhes ——— 831½	75	756½
Woollen Cloth by Weight 1854 l.	217	1637
Perpets and Serges ——— 5886	1791	4095
Ditto per pound Weight — 306936 l.	131335	175601 81. per ps.
Stuffs and Sayes. ps. —— —— 484	348	136
Ditto by Pound Weight —— 9645	240	9405 12 l.
Flannels per Yard — —— 36788 yds.	3361	33427
Frizes per Yard —— —— 44533	2241	42292
Cottons per Goad ——— 76181	18477	57704
Bays ſingle and double —— 4120	1824½	2295½
Mens worſted Hoſe — —— 4320¾	2179	2141¾
Dittto Woollen —— —— 6686	3488	3198
Devon Dozens —— —— 29	——	29
Foreſt Whites —— —— 9	——	9
Single Dunſtars —— —— 26½	——	26½
Newberry Whites —— —— 44	——	44
Dorſet Dozens ——— 5310	1379	3931
Rugs and Coverlids —— —— 420	324	96
Lead per Fod. ——— 3277¼	1817	1460¼
Tin per C. —— —— —— 4799½	3102	1697½
Tewter per C. ——— 213¾	76. 7 l.	137. 2. 21 l.
Lead-Shot per C. ——— 2646¼	1560	1086¼
Glue per C. ——— 1599	1096. 2	502¼

The Additional Duty on Leather not laid on till September 7. 1688.

Theſe were ſome of the Differences between the Exportations of two Years immediately following one another, (viz.) the Year 1686-7 and 1687-8, having the Criſis falling between them of the high Duties being laid on in France the latter end of the Year 1687, (viz.) November 8.

Thoſe, who pleaſe to caſt up the Value, will ſee it is no trifling Sum, let them value them by whoſe Scheme they pleaſe. The *MERCATOR* taking them at a Lump, believes they amount to above 200000 l. The Inferences are plain, as follows; (viz.)

If the laying on theſe laſt Duties in 1687 ſunk our Exports 200000 l. in theſe few Articles, it is very reaſonable to ſuppoſe the high Duties of 1667 had the like Effect.

If the Exports ſunk after the high Duties in 1667, then it was a Cheat, a prepoſterous and abſurd thing to offer the Exports of 1685 for a Teſt of the Trade to France, which is to ſtand after a Treaty of Commerce is ſettled upon the foot of the Tariff of 1664.

If this is not juſt, the *MERCATOR* would willingly know, why the high Duties added in 1687 ſhould ſink the Trade, and thoſe of 1667, which were by much the greater, ſhould not.

And from the whole, the *MERCATOR* enquires, if the laying on theſe Duties in 1687, ſunk the Trade, as above, is it not reaſonable to think, that taking them all off back to 1664, ſhould Encreaſe our Export in the juſt Proportion, and conſequently make the Trade, greater, than it was in the Year 1685?

If the Oppoſers will Confute this Reaſoning, the *MERCATOR* promiſes never to appear again in the Cauſe of the French Commerce; and if they cannot, they ought to bluſh for Oppoſing it as they have done: And till this is Anſwered, no Wiſe Man can think it worth his Trouble to take Notice, what they ſay.

LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the *Temple-Gate*; and